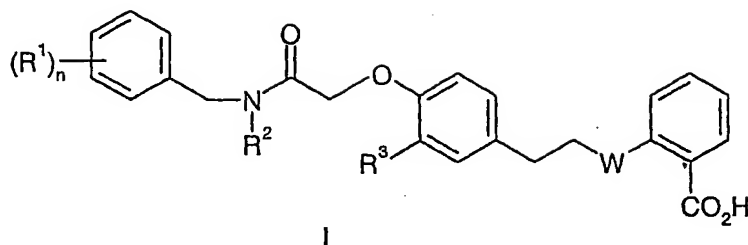


Claims

1. A compound of formula I



wherein n is 0, 1 or 2;

R¹ represents halo, a C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, a C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy group which is optionally substituted by one or more fluoro and wherein when n is 2 the substituents R¹ may be the same or different;

R² represents an unbranched C<sub>2-7</sub>alkyl group;

R³ represents H or OCH<sub>3</sub>; and

W represents O or S;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein W is O.

3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein W is S.

4. A compound selected from:

2-[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;

2-[2-(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(heptyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}-3-methoxyphenyl)-ethoxy]benzoic acid;

2-[2-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethylthio]benzoic acid;

2-[2-(4-{2-[(4-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;

2-[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(4-trifluoromethylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid ;

2-[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(4-trifluoromethylbenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethylthio]benzoic acid ;

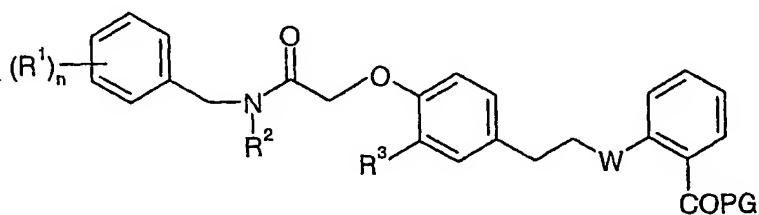
2-{2-[4-(2-{butyl[2-fluoro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}-2-oxoethoxy)phenyl]-ethoxy}benzoic acid;

2-[2-(4-{2-[(2,4-difluorobenzyl)(propyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;

2-[2-(4-{2-[benzyl(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;

- 2-{{2-(4-{2-[benzyl(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethyl}thio}benzoic acid;  
 2-[2-(4-{2-[(4-*tert*-butylbenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;  
 2-[2-(4-{2-[ethyl(4-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethoxy]benzoic acid;  
 2-{{2-(4-{2-[ethyl(2-fluorobenzyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethyl}thio}benzoic acid; or  
 5 2-{{2-(4-{2-[(2-chlorobenzyl)(ethyl)amino]-2-oxoethoxy}phenyl)ethyl}thio}benzoic acid  
 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
5. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to any preceding claim in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers.
6. A method of treating or preventing insulin resistance comprising the administration of  
 10 a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 to a mammal in need thereof.
7. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of insulin resistance.
8. A process to prepare a compound of formula I which comprises reacting a compound of formula II

15



II

in which  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $W$  and  $n$  are as previously defined and  $PG$  represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group with a de-protecting agent.

9. A compound of formula II as described in claim 8.
- 20 10. A combination treatment comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in combination with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of disorders associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis such as hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.